Owing to the fact that nearly all present had arranged to attend the benefit no official action by the association was taken. Dr. Florence Sylvester, in speaking for the cause, urged the support of the association, in as much as such a clinic was greatly needed.

The following resolution, introduced by Dr. H. N. Rowell, was unanimously adopted and the secretary instructed to transmit a copy to the Board of Supervisors:

"Whereas, By reason of the increasing population of Alameda County the present accommodations for the county poor have become entirely inadequate, and

"Whereas, The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Alameda County, keenly alive to the humane duties devolving upon them, have recognized the absolutely imperative necessity of better facilities for handling the sick and have, by resolution, determined to procure a tract of land and erect hospital buildings of latest type and design, properly equipped within the city limits of Oakland, therefore be it

"Resolved, that the Alameda County Medical Association does hereby congratulate the Honorable Board of Supervisors upon its recent decision, and to offer its assistance in any manner, to the end that our new infirmary be such that it shall reflect credit upon this county generally and afford relief for the increasing number of indigent sick."

Dr. Florence Sylvester called attention to the annual meeting of the Alameda County Association for the study and prevention of tuberculosis to be held on Friday, March 18th, at 8 p. m., at the Chabot Observatory.

There being no further business to come before the association, upon motion duly seconded and carried, the meeting adjourned.

PAULINE NUSBAUMER, Secretary.

BOOK REVIEWS

Studies on Immunization and their Application to the Diagnosis and Treatment of Bacterial Infections. By Sir A. E. Wright, M. D., F. R. S., Director of the Department for Therapeutic Immunization, St. Mary's Hospital, London. Late Professor of Pathology, Army Medical School, Netley. Archibald Constable & Co., Limited, London. 1909.

This volume is a reprint of papers which appeared originally in various English journals. With the exception of technical details, which are promised for a later volume, it represents a full report of the voluminous labors of Wright and his associates in this field during the last twelve years.

The book is divided into two parts, the first dealing with the scientific phases of the subject—the author's theories as to the mechanism of immunity, its production and application, with experiments to prove them; the second with the practical aspect, Wright's vaccine treatment of infections, and the practical value of the opsonic index in diagnosis and as a guide to treatment. The preface contains a concise statement of the author's views as well as a history of their development in his mind. Neither this nor the rather original index which appears in the form of a synopsis, should escape attention.

Very few pieces of research in medicine have found the instant and keen response in interest if not in full acceptance from all over the world, that Wright's work has found; the subject is still one of live interest, and inasmuch as Wright and his associates have done incomparably more and incomparably better work than anyone else, this book will find acceptance as a kind of classic. In the face of the figures given here, to say that any use of the opsonic index is necessarily unreliable is to show ignorance of the extraordinarily careful and accurate work which has been done in Wright's laboratory. Some of us are honest enough to say that our own estimations of the opsonic index are unreliable, and to believe that the method is far too complicated to make it worth while to spend the great time necessary to attain technical perfection, but that is not to say that technical perfection is impossible. Opsonic therapy has suffered from deductions based on too much careless and slip-shod work, especially in this country.

At the same time, brilliant as the papers are in many ways, the author will find few in any other country than his own who will follow him so far in ascribing almost exclusive importance in immunity to opsonins, or to phagocytosis. We cannot escape an impression of one-sidedness in reading this volume. Metchnikoff's original propositions on phagocytosis have steadily lost rather than gained ground in the light of newer studies on serum and immunity, such as those by his own pupils, Bordet and Gengou, and by Ehrlich and a host of German observers.

The book, however, will repay careful reading by everyone at all interested in vaccine-therapy, or in the broader field of immunity in general. Perhaps it will serve as a deterrent to the too-common slip-shod methods in this field. J. L. W.

Studies in Immunity. By Prof. Jules Bordet, Professor of Bacteriology at the University of Brussels, Director of the Pasteur Institute of Brabant, and his Collaborators, collected and translated by Frederick P. Gay, A. B., M. D., Instructor in Pathology, Harvard Medical School.

This volume should attract more than the usual amount of interest, containing as it does many of the researches from which the rapidly enlarging science of immunity took its origin. As the translator suggests in his preface, in this day of the "over-Germanizing" of American science, it may surprise many to discover that not Ehrlich but a Frenchman, Bordet, was not only the pioneer in the newer studies of immunity, but the contributor of a great mass of the most fundamental research. The all-important fact, for example, of the participation of two bodies, alexin and sensitizer or anti-body in all reactions of the immunity type in the animal body, was one of Bordet's early demonstrations, and his complement-fixation test as described in one of these papers (p. 190) is now more generally known in its specialized application as the Wassermann reaction for syphilis, but was widely used by its originator for the detection of a great number of different diseases. Bordet's application of a serum-reaction to the differentiation of blood-stains from different animals has already become of great medico-legal importance.

While this collection consists, except for the last chapter, only of papers which appeared separately, the effect is by no means fragmentary, inasmuch as the problems attacked were the ones basic to the whole subject, the applications of which are general. Among the most interesting papers, partly because they are the first steps in a new direction, and indicate the path which progress must take, are those correlating immunity-reactions with the newest knowledge of physical chemistry—especially the behavior of inorganic as well as organic colloids in reactions which are strictly comparable with those of immunity. It needs no gift of prophecy to foresee that the next great advance in the understanding of the life-process will come with the exploration of the great field of colloid-action, in which Bredig's researches in the inorganic kingdom can be carried almost bodily into the animal.

Bordet is known as the foremost opponent of the Ehrlich side-chain theory. This he attacks very ably and with the utmost good-feeling and courtesy in the